NORTH CAROLINA'S MINERAL RESOURCES

North Carolina has a greater variety of valuable minerals than almost any other State in the Union. More than 300 kinds of rocks and minerals are known to occur in the State of which more than 70 are economically valuable and more than 30 have been mined at one time or another. The Department of Conservation and Development is responsible for information on the importance and development of these rocks and minerals through its Division of Mineral Resources.

Mineral resources are not renewable. As rocks and minerals are taken from the earth the supply grows less and less and there is nothing we can do about it. We cannot grow minerals and rocks as we can grow fish, game, forests and crops. As a result minerals should be carefully conserved and wisely used.

The citizens of the State of North Carolina are interested in the rocks and minerals they find in different parts of the State. They want to know what the rocks and minerals contain that is valuable and what use, if any, can be made of them. It is a part of the program of the Mineral Resources Division of the Department of Conservation and Development to furnish this sort of information. As a result several hundred rock and mineral specimens are examined and reported upon each year. This practice helps to obtain a better picture of the potential mineral resources of our State and sometimes leads to the discovery of unknown but valuable mineral deposits.

In addition to the work of examining and reporting upon rock and mineral specimens, the Mineral Resources Division makes surveys of known mineral deposits and of areas known to be mineralized. Such surveys often furnish information of value on the State's mineral resources. Many industries depend on North Carolina minerals. Information on the amount and accessability of the desired minerals available is of great importance to these industries.

North Carolina was the first State in the Union to officially begin studies of its mineral resources and as a result some of its minerals have been of interest for many